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Gleanings

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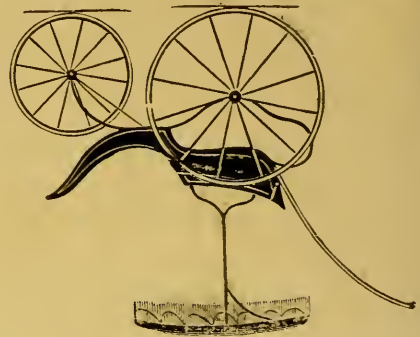
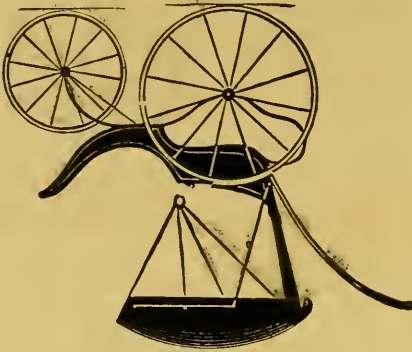
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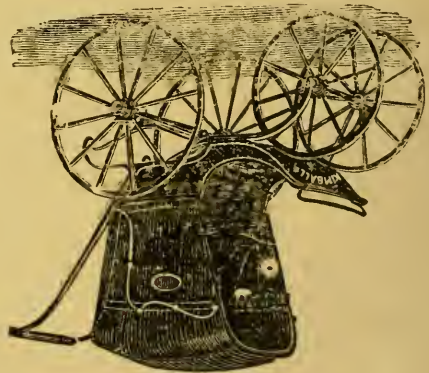
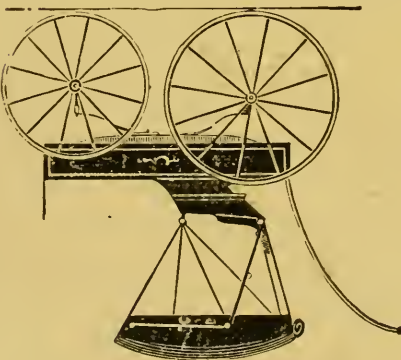
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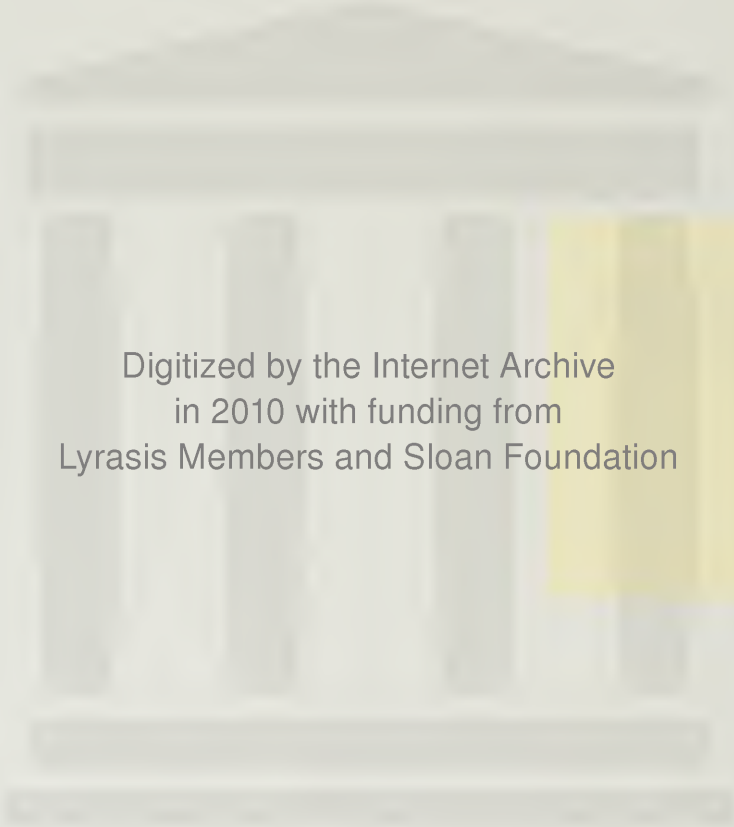


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THE CANARY BIRD.

—:O:—

The well-known little songster is a native of the Canary and Cape de Verde Islands, and also of Madeira. It is about five inches long, and is of a variety of colors, some being yellow, some white and some mottled and shaded. It has been diffused over almost every civilized country, on account of the charm of its song.

CARE AND TREATMENT OF THE CANARY.

The following suggestions are from Mr. C. F. Holden, a gentleman eminently qualified to treat the little pets, in their sickness, as well as health:—

Birds, as well as persons, are subjects for colds; they take colds naturally, when subject to a draught of air. The window is down, perhaps, or the door open, or the room too cold. The proper temperature for the canary is sixty degrees. If the cold is not cured it will lead to asthma, and then to the gapes. To cure, feed, in addition to their regular seed, rape and canary, a paste made from a hard boiled egg and one pulverized cracker, the same as when setting.

Loss of Voice.—Give a little unflavored rock candy, dissolved in the drinking water, together with a few kernels of red pepper, put into a paste, as described above, or a piece of salt pork, with a quantity of red pepper thereon.

For Diarrhœa, put a rusty nail in the drinking water.

Costiveness.—Give a piece of sweet apple, a little chickweed, lettuce, or any green food will usually afford relief. Most ailments of birds commence with a cold; to prevent this, saves an immense amount of trouble.

Egg Bound.—At the time of mating, they should be fed on green food—this is, in a measure, preventive. If this is not successful, carefully take the bird and bathe the passage gently with warm sweet oil. To rid them of *red lice*, at night, place a white towel on the top of the cage, in the morning this will be covered with them. Shake them into the fire, and repeat the same thing every day till they are entirely gone.

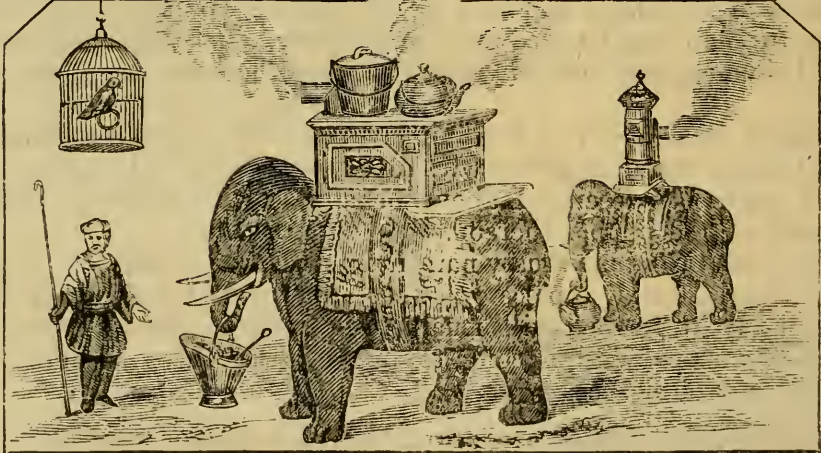
Moulting.—When the bird is shedding its feathers it should be kept in a warm room, away from draught of air, and fed on egg paste, as before described for a cold. If the tail and wing feathers do not readily come out, remove them one at a time gently.

The cage should always be kept clean and supplied with gravel or gravel paper. The bird should not be fed on candy, figs, raisins, cake and such delicacies: this kindness is a great injury to them.

THE CANARY BIRD



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PART SECOND.

CLEANINGS
FROM
NATURAL HISTORY,



THE CAMEL.

The wisdom of the Creator is no less manifest in the construction of the camel, than in all the rest of his creation. As a beast of burden, it is profitable only on the deserts, where it rivals everything yet introduced as a means of transportation.

It would seem that the Creator made him specially for the purpose which he fills; as the great sandy deserts of Arabia could not so profitably be traversed without him. And here the goodness of God is manifest, for He certainly cares for the temporal wants of man, as well as his spiritual. The Arab depends upon him as a burden-bearer, for his milk, butter, cheese, and also manufactures clothing from his hair. The camel's stomach is so divided that he can drink, as he does, water enough to last him for many days; for, in crossing the deserts, which they so frequently do, they are obliged to travel many days over burning sand, without meeting a single spring of water. A very small quantity of herbage will satisfy his hunger, and that of the poorest quality, such as the desert produces. His stomach is adapted to the demands of his situation as we have seen; but this is not all; his feet are wonderfully made; so constructed that he could not walk long or easily on a hard surface or on damp soil, for the latter would produce inflammation in his limbs, and the former bruise his soft hoof, but the desert is the place of all places he delights to abide in, for there he is at home.

A large camel will carry seven to twelve hundred weight upon his back, and travel thirty miles a day at that. The courier camel will travel, without a load, ninety miles a day, if the ground be dry and level, and subsist on dry, thorny desert plants, for eight or ten days together, but after this they require something more nutritious, in the shape of dates, perhaps.

THE MARMOT.—A genus of quadrupeds, found in the northern parts of both continents. In general they have a thick body, strong legs, powerful claws, and sharp teeth. They burrow in the ground, and retreat to their hole when the cold weather comes on. This is formed with great art, having two entrances, both leading to one spacious apartment, warmly lined with hay or moss.

A number of marmots live together in one burrow, and at the approach of winter, finding themselves becoming torpid, they close up the entrances to their home, and cover themselves up with hay and await the approach of warm weather. The bobac and the common marmot are found in the mountains of Europe and Asia. The Maryland marmot, or woodchuck, is common throughout the United States, and is sometimes a troublesome animal, consuming great quantities of herbage, and sometimes attacking the corn. It is about the size of a rabbit, of a grayish brown.

The prairie marmot, or wish-ton-wish, builds his dwelling in the barren tracts of the western country, where his burrow is indicated by little mounds of earth. Whole acres of ground are occupied by thousands of these little tenants, which are, however, often turned out of their snug retreats by owls, snakes, tortoises, and lizards; these, not having the patience to build habitations for themselves, appropriate those of this industrious marmot, and frequently destroy the young family.

The hoary marmot, or whistler, is so called from its shrill whistle when alarmed. The Indians eat the flesh of this little animal, and make blankets of its skin. It is found in the Rocky Mountains.

THE CAVY, OR CAPYBARA.—This creature is of the size of a small pig; it is web-footed and swims well; feeds on fish, roots, and sugarcane; found in South America.

THE AGOUTI.—This quadruped is a native of South America and the West Indies. It is about the size of a hare, and lives in holes in trees. It feeds greedily on all sorts of food, but principally on roots and fruits. Its hind legs are much longer than its fore paws, which it uses as the squirrel does, to carry its food to its mouth. It resembles a rat, but has a very short tail.

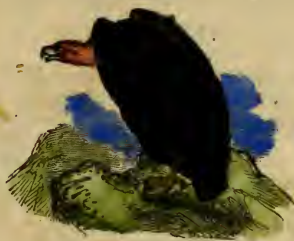
THE ARMADILLO.—Of this quadruped there are many species, all resembling each other, but differing in size and in the construction of their shell. The armor which covers the head, tail, and all the upper parts, is not one solid piece, but consists of several parts, joined to each other by membranes. The armadillos are found chiefly in South America. They are harmless and innocent, burrowing in sand hills like rabbits. They feed upon vegetables, fruits and roots.

They walk rapidly, but they can neither climb trees nor run; so when pursued, their only resource is to dig into the ground, which they do with great rapidity. In order to get them out of the burrow the hunters smoke them, though this plan is not always successful, as, while the enemy digs, the animal digs also, and throws up the dirt so as to exclude the smoke. The armadillo is sometimes hunted by small dogs and overtaken; he then rolls himself into a ball, and is carried away. Sometimes, if he finds himself near a precipice, he rolls himself up, and falls down unhurt, and thus escapes his pursuers.

THE PLATYPUS.—A curious web-footed quadruped of New Holland, living chiefly in rivers, on worms and aquatic insects, with a body like the otter, fur like the beaver, and a bill like the duck. It is thirteen inches long.

THE HUSO, OR ISINGLASS FISH.—A species of sturgeon, is from fifty to four hundred pounds' weight. It is taken in great quantities, in large European rivers, for the isinglass which it furnishes. This is procured in the form of jelly, by boiling the fish, which when dried becomes isinglass.

THE SKATE.—A species of fish, weighing sometimes two hundred pounds. It is of a brownish-gray color, thin, flat, and disgusting to look upon. It is found in European seas, and all along the American shores. It is considered good eating in England, but here it is only used for bait.



THE VULTURE.

The wisdom of the Great Creator is manifest in all his works to that one who studies with an honest heart. In the animal kingdom, though we find very many species, there is not one but was created for a special purpose, and many are so obvious that a new beginner in the study of nature can hardly fail to see the great design of the Creator.

The vulture, though so disgusting to us, performs his part, and takes delight in his life. He is a gregarious bird and is found in warm and mild climates. He feeds on carrion, small animals, birds and reptiles; is indolent, has a disgusting form, and emits a bad odor.

The vulture of the Andes lives on the lofty rocks near the line of perpetual snow. The principal American species are the condor, Californian, vulture, king vulture, turkey buzzard, and the black or carrion vulture. The largest of these species is found upon the whole range of mountains which traverse the American continent. It measures about three feet in length, and from tip to tip of wings is about nine feet; its color nearly black, head and neck bare of feathers and covered with a hard and wrinkled reddish skin. His head is surmounted by an oblong comb, and around his neck he wears a ruff of white feathers. Like the eagle, he is bold and ferocious, though preferring a dead, putrid carcass to feed upon, which his eye is not slow to see, when such an object is within the range of his eye. He will attack a living animal to satisfy his hunger, if one dead cannot be found. When his hunger is extreme, he, with a companion, will attack a cougar, a calf, or a full grown cow, and continue to lacerate it, with beak and talons, till it falls exhausted from the loss of blood.

Were it not for this scavenger which the Almighty has prepared to rid the arid regions of the earth of putrid animal matter, the air would be filled with a pestilence fatal to animal nature. Thus, we see His kindness and His wisdom manifest in this most loathsome of all birds.

The eagle is the most powerful of all the feathered race

THE HYÆNA.

All the warmer parts of the eastern continent, from India to the Senegal, in western Africa, are inhabited by great numbers of a singular animal, which appears in some respects to unite the characters of several distinct creatures. This is the common striped Hyæna, a creature of the most repulsive aspect, and to the full as disgusting in his habits as in his external appearance. At first sight he has a good deal of the appearance of a large, and very ugly dog, and agrees so closely in some of his characters with the dogs that Linnæus, the great Swedish naturalist, associated the hyæna with these animals (dogs, wolves, and foxes,) under the name of *Canis Hyæna*. Later naturalists, however, have found distinctions which warrant the complete removal of the hyæna from this locality.

These are derived partly from the structure and arrangement of the teeth, which somewhat approach those of the cats, and the tongue of the hyæna is furnished like that of the larger cats (the lion, tiger, &c.) with a number of prickles, serving to rasp the last particle of flesh from the bones of its prey.

Unlike the cats however, their claws are not retractile; and they possess beneath the tail a little pouch, like that which we meet with in the civet, and which, as in that animal, serves as a receptacle for an odorous secretion. The jaws and teeth of the hyæna are exceedingly solid and powerful, and the former are moved by muscles of prodigious strength, enabling the animal to crack bones which one would have thought beyond his power; so firmly does he bite, and so tenacious is he of his hold upon anything that he has once seized, that it is almost impossible to make him let it go. The Moors are said to avail themselves of their knowledge of this circumstance to capture the hyæna. They throw him the end of a long sack, and when he has seized it, they may drag him where ever they please, without any fear of his losing his hold. Cuvier tells us, also, that the Arabs employ the name of the hyæna as expressive of obstinacy; and the term "stiff-necked" may certainly be applied to this animal in more senses than one, for it not unfrequently happens that the vertebrae of his short, thick neck becomes fixed together by a bony secretion, in consequence of the violent muscular action to which they are constantly exposed, so that, in some cases, the whole of these bones are at last united into a single piece. Hence, the older writers to whom this fact appears to have been well known, were induced to assert that the hyæna, unlike other animals, had but a single bone in his neck. The whole forepart of the body in the hyæna is muscular and well

developed—a structure enabling the creature to dig into the earth with great facility, which, as we shall see hereafter, is of no small importance to him; but the hinder quarters are depressed, the legs being thrown out behind very much, so as to give a very awkward appearance of weakness to this part of the animal. The head is short and thick; the nose broad and black; the eyes prominent; the ears very large, bold, upright, nearly naked, and of a dull, purplish color. The general color of the animal is a brownish grey, marked with irregular dark brown or blackish bands on the body and limbs; the tail is rather short and bushy, and along the back runs a strong, bristle mane, which the creature erects when irritated.

The hyæna generally lives in caves, where it sleeps during the day, being a strictly nocturnal animal in its wild state. Its feeds principally upon the dead bodies of men and animals which it may meet with in those hospitable solitudes; but, in many cases, venturing nearer to the habitations of man, it seeks its food in a manner which tends more than anything to excite our abhorrence.

The creatures prowl into the cemeteries during the night, and tear open the graves in search of newly-buried bodies, which they mangle and devour with insatiable voracity.

THE JERBOA.—A curious little animal, six inches in length, having very short fore-legs and long hind ones. When attempting to escape, it makes prodigious leaps. In form it resembles the kangaroo. It inhabits Africa. There are two or three species in Asia.

THE PORCUPINE.—Of this quadruped there are several species. The common porcupine of Europe is about two feet long, and covered with long spines or quills, tapering to a point. In defending itself, this animal lies on one side, and rolls suddenly with the other upon its enemy. The spines have a poisonous quality, and inflict wounds which are difficult to cure. It has not the power of throwing out its quills, as has been said. The other species are the comado, and urson, or Canada porcupine. The former is carnivorous; the latter feeds chiefly upon the bark of the juniper tree. Its quills are used by the Indians in ornamenting their dress.

THE CHINCHILLA. This pretty little animal is a kind of mouse, and is about eleven inches in length, with a very long tail. It is found in Chili. Its fur is of a beautiful gray color, mottled with white, and is much used for caps, furs, &c.



THE TAPIR.

This animal as will be seen, somewhat resembles the hog, although it is much larger, when full grown; its weight, is about eight hundred pounds. Its color is of a brown, and it has a mane an inch and a half long; its general food is vegetables. It sleeps during the day in a secluded place, and at night sallies forth in quest of a repast; melons, guards, and such like food please his palate. He has a long flexible nose which serves him to a certain extent as the trunk does the Elephant.

He is a native of South America and also Malacca.



THE LEOPARD.

A beautiful quadruped, of the cat kind, found in Africa. He is from three to four feet in length, of a fawn color, marked with large, black, rose-like spots. The tail is very long, and annulated with black and white. He is very sanguinary, and preys upon antelopes, monkeys and small quadrupeds, upon which he darts from his hiding place. He is unrivalled for agility and rapidity of motion. His disposition is fierce and savage, but he may be brought to some degree of tameness, though it is never safe to trust him.

The hunting leopard, or chetak, appears to possess some qualities both of the dog and cat. He is smaller than the African leopard, of a fawn color above, and white beneath, dotted over with black spots. He is an inhabitant of the southern regions of Asia and Africa. He is domesticated in India, and used for hunting.



THE PELICAN.

There are several species of this bird, one common to Europe and America, one exclusively American, and one in New Holland.

The common Pelican is about six feet long, of a white color above with a yellowish breast.

It is the largest of the web-footed birds, wanders widely, and inhabits a diversity of climates frequenting oceans, lakes, rivers, and ponds, in quest of its food. It is very voracious and gluttonous; its principal food is fish; skimming over the water they suddenly pounce upon the unsuspecting fish, and deposit him in a long pouch with which they are provided, that is suspended from their throat; this operation is repeated till the pouch is filled, then they retire to the shore to swallow and digest the products of their excursion. His note is a hoarse hollow sound, resembling a grunt. They are found in flocks of about twelve, generally on the ground or in the water, seldom perched upon a tree.

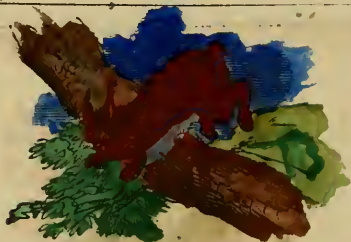


THE ZEBRA.

This animal belongs to the Horse genus, and is celebrated for his beautiful striped skin.

He is found in his wild state in Southern Africa, though tamed and domesticated like the horse, he has never been used for any practical purpose.

THE MACPHE is a bird possessing the cunning, thievish, middlesome disposition of the crow family.



THE CARACAL

This animal is the lynx of the ancients, and is found in Arabia, Africa, and Asia. It is somewhat larger than a fox, and much fiercer and stronger. It is of a reddish color above, and white beneath. It generally subsists upon the refuse of the lion's meal, and for this purpose it follows that animal from place to place. When this source fails, it will sometimes attack hares, rabbits and birds.



THE HERON

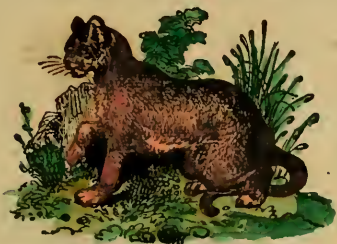
There are several species of this bird; their legs and bills are long, particularly adapted to meet their wants in securing their food, which is fish, frogs, field mice, small reptiles, &c. They reside on the banks of lakes, ponds, rivers, and in marshes. The common Heron is found in nearly every part of the eastern continent; when in quest of its food, it wades into the water and there waits in an attitude very demure, but with an eye to business till the coveted meal is secured.

The male bird is very gallant toward the female while setting for he brings her a part of the proceeds of his fishing excursion. The American species of this bird are: the American night Heron, or *qua bird*, (a nocturnal bird,) the Snowy Heron, Louisiana Heron, white crowned Heron, blue Heron, American Bittern, Green Heron and least bittern. The Agami Heron is a South American Bird. The American bittern, (or heron) is found in middle eastern Massachusetts. Its note is very peculiar, the sound of which, very perfectly imitates that of post driving with an echo, so much so that it receives the name of *post driving*.

THE MUSKRAT

Receives its name from two circumstances: first, because in shape and appearance it much resembles the common wharf and other rats; second, because it is provided with a secretion similar to musk, or in fact musk of its quality. It is an amphibious animal, well known in New England, living a greater part of the season on the shores of streams and ponds; at such times, it burrows very convenient to the waters edge, often the mouth of which will be under the water, to which it flees at the approach of danger. In the winter time they build temporary nests on the ice, over still water. It is composed of grass and the roots of grass, usually about the size of a bushel basket. They grow to be much larger than the common rat, generally from eight to twelve inches long, the body is well proportioned, and, as we have said, very much resembling that of common rats, even to the tail, which is dissimilar in that it is considerably more flat.

Its principle food is muscles and snails, although it will eat fruit, and is so fond of it that it will be tempted to go into a trap after it. It is provided with long sharp teeth, well adapted to open muscle's shells, which we find in large heaps sometimes on the banks of our rivers. Their fur is much used in the fur trade.



THE PUMA.

This quadruped is peculiar to America. It is of a fawn color, without a mane or tuft at the end of the tail, and is from three to five feet long. Notwithstanding its size and strength, it is cowardly, and, like all cowards, sanguinary. It will frequently suck the blood of a whole flock of sheep. It seizes its prey like other members of the cat family; it crouches and crawls softly through the bushes, and then suddenly leaps upon its victim and tears it in pieces. It is taken by the lasso on the plains of South America. It is easily tamed, and becomes tractable, and even fond of its keeper. This animal was formerly common in all parts of the United States, where he passed under the various names of panther, painter, and catamount. He is now seldom met with, except in the mountains, and remote western regions.

THE LYNX.—An animal, of the cat family, found in the northern climates of both continents. It leaps and bounds like a cat, feeds on birds and quadrupeds, and follows its prey to the tops of trees. The keenness of its sight is proverbial. There are three species in America. The bay lynx, or American wild cat, is the most common, and is occasionally found in the United States. It is about the size of a common cat, and is of a reddish color, spotted with brown, with short legs, and a short tail. The Canada lynx has been thought by some naturalists to be the same as the European lynx. The banded lynx appears to inhabit the western regions, but is little known. There are several foreign species of lynx.

THE SEAL.—A genus of animals, found in all seas, but chiefly in those of the polar regions. There are many species. Their structure is admirably adapted to their mode of life; the nostrils and ears both closing when the animal dives. Its hind feet alone are used for swimming. Its movements on land are slow and painful, dragging itself forward like a reptile.⁹



THE TIGER.

A quadruped of the cat family, inferior only to the lion in strength, size, and courage. The body is long, the legs rather short, the eyes glassy, and the countenance haggard. He is the scourge of Asia and the Asiatic islands. He has strength to seize a man and carry him off at full gallop. His ferocity leads him to slay beyond his desire of food. In contrast to these hideous qualities, his skin is marked with singular beauty, being of a fawn color, splendidly striped downwards with black bands. His step resembles that of a cat. When taken young, and kindly treated, he grows familiar, and exhibits gentleness and affection towards his keeper. There is but one species, the royal tiger of Asia: though a variety called the clouded tiger, is known. The black tiger of South America is a fierce animal, of the size of the jaguar, and is but little known. It is supposed to be a variety of the jaguar.

THE DOG.—The genus includes not only dogs generally, but foxes, wolves, &c.

The domestication of the dog is more complete than that of any other animal. His attachment and fidelity surpass those of all other brutes. His confidence even seems to approach friendship, and he excites in return feelings of strong affection. He is thus a source of constant pleasure, and, possessing great strength and speed, and a strong scent, he becomes a powerful and useful ally in the subjugation of other animals. He has followed man through every quarter of the globe, and seems to be the only animal whose existence is not confined within certain geographical limits.

It has been thought that the dog was derived from the wolf or jackal, but, as he is found wild in many of the Asiatic islands and in various other parts of the world, and appears to possess a distinct character in that state, it is probable that he is an original species.

THE WOLF is a fierce and savage beast, greatly resembling the dog.



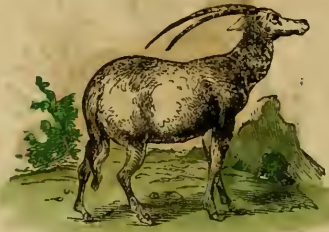
THE BUFFALO OR AMERICAN BISON.

This is one of the noblest of American animals that live in a wild state. They range the western part of North America, and are found in immense herds on the praries. While feeding they scatter themselves over the country, but when moving in a mass they form a dense column, scarcely to be impeded; even large rivers, which lay in their course, are crossed with as little ceremony as a brook. They are constantly on the move, making a large circuit, going up one side of the Rocky Mountains and down the other. This they continue in succession, though it takes several years to complete a circuit. They love to feed upon the tender grass that springs up after a fire has spread over the prairie. In the winter they scrape away the snow to reach the grass. Naturally, they are timid, but when wounded they become desperate and dangerous. Thousands have been slaughtered for their flesh and skins, and many more for mere pleasure, and then their carcasses left in the field to be devoured by wild beasts.

The Bison is now found only west of the Mississippi, but formerly it is supposed that he roamed from ocean to ocean. Civilization in its onward march toward the great west, has compelled him to retreat before it, as it has the Indian, and, like him, he will in time utterly vanish from the United States.

HORSE.—This animal is now only known in a domestic state, or, if wild, but as the offspring of domestic varieties. The finest breed is that of Arabia. Most countries possess varieties of this animal peculiar to themselves. The horse may be considered the most valuable of all the brute creation to man. He combines strength, speed and docility beyond any other animal. The wild herds of horses in the western regions, Mexico, and South America, are sprung from the horses brought into the country by the Spaniards.

In cold countries, as the Shetland Islands this animal dwindles into a pony, which is a very hardy, useful and sagacious animal.



THE ANTELOPE.

This genus embraces many species, as the common or Indian antelope, striped antelope, springbok, elk antelope, Scythian antelope, heartbeest, prong-horned antelope, harnessed antelope, addax, oryx, four-horned antelope, chamois, and some others. The gnu has been considered as belonging to this race, though perhaps improperly. They are all natives of the eastern continent, except the prong horned which inhabits the United States; they are distinguished by large, lustrous eyes, pointed ears, and slender legs. They are generally extremely timid and fleet. They do not cast their horns like the deer.

The common antelope is a little smaller than our common deer. When young they are of a yellowish fawn color, and grow darker with age. They inhabit the whole of India, roaming in wild herds, of fifty or sixty, over the uninhabited plains. The Hindoo princes pursue this animal with trained hawks, which fix their talons upon the head and throat, and keep it till the dogs come up. The striped antelope is as large as a stag, and has white stripes extending along the back and sides. It inhabits the Cape of Good Hope. The elk antelope has straight horns, two feet in length. It inhabits India, Congo, and the southern parts of Africa. The Scythian antelope inhabits the deserts in the northern parts of Europe and Asia. The prong-horned antelope is a peaceful animal, inhabiting the plains about the Rocky Mountains. The harnessed antelope is of a brown color, not singularly marked with bands upon the back and sides, resembling a harness. It is found in Senegal, in Africa. The blue antelope is of a silvery blue color, and is found in the southern parts of Africa. The reitbok, blisbok, and springbok, are all African species.

Gazelle is a name applied to several species of antelope, among which are the springbok, pallah, and Senegal antelope, of Africa, and the proper gazelle, of Persia. This latter is a slender, graceful, and elegant creature, having an eye of great depth and softness. The Persian poet likens the eyes of his mistress to those of the gazelle.

BIRDS CLAWS GROW VERY LONG, and require cutting. This is a particular operation; and care should be taken not to cut up into the blood-veins, which can be easily seen by holding the bird's claw in front of a strong light, and then cutting within a sixteenth of an inch of the red vein.

Occasionally a canary is troubled with epilepsy. A sure cure for this has never been discovered. The author has taken a bulfinch and other birds affected, and cut the bird's claws,—one on each foot,—just sufficient to draw the blood, and, holding the foot in warm (not hot) water until the blood ceased to flow; then a slight sprinkling—with the hand—with cold water: feeding only on rape-seed, which had been previously soaked in water, and a liberal supply of apple and green-stuff, as recommended above, has generally effected a cure.

During and after moulting, and sometimes after breeding, a bird will seem to have lost his appetite. At such times it is well to give a very little hemp, and all the millet-seed a bird will eat; and, if convenient, change the location of his cage to a more cheerful place.

From the 14th of February to the middle of May, all birds have what is known as the Mating fever. This fever or sexual desire, is the strongest during the latter part of April and early in May:

and, if not mated, they sit moping with ruffled feathers, cease singing entirely, refuse their food, and often, in their silent sorrow, pine away and die. If their attention can be diverted from this "lovesickness," it should always be done. The better cure is to mate your bird. If this is inconvenient, place him in the cheerful sunlight, tempt him with dainty morsels of food, talk and whistle to him; and, if you have a friend that owns a bird, let your bird visit him, and cheerful company will soon restore him; or a better way still is to leave him at a well kept bird store.—*Holden's Book of Birds.*

The flying-fish, when pursued, darts out of the water and takes refuge in the air, in which it is for some time supported by the operation of its large and pliable fins. The torpedo is furnished with a remarkable apparatus for self-preservation. It repels every hostile attempt by an electrical stroke, which confounds and intimidates its enemies.

THE SPONGE.—The best quality of sponge is gathered in the Mediterranean sea; but an excellent quality is found upon the rocks of the Bahamas and the coast of Florida. The sponge, when torn from the rocks to which it adheres, appears at first as a heavy black looking mass, having a strong and offensive odor. In order to clean the sponge, it is buried in the earth for some weeks, at the end of which time all the organic matter will be decomposed, only the pure fibrous skeleton remaining. The sponge, when purified, is liable to become exceedingly hard, and to obviate this the purified sponge is immersed in water containing from ten to twenty per cent of glycerine; after being squeezed dry, it will be entirely soft and elastic.

Dr. Carpenter in Providence.

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
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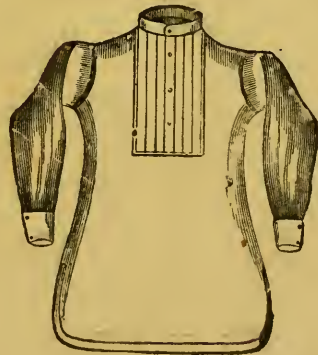
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